

5-12-1975

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Recommended Citation

"The Metric System: Managing the Transition" (1975). *News Releases*. 6267.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/6267

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THE METRIC SYSTEM:
MANAGING THE TRANSITION

DAYTON, Ohio, May 12, 1975 --- Conversion to the metric system poses countless problems to the scientific, engineering, and other professional communities.

Managing the Transition to the SI (Metric) in Design and Manufacturing, a short course scheduled June 2-5, has been planned for management, professional, and technical personnel who must deal with the conversion to the metric system.

One of several short courses tailored to meet the needs of Dayton's industrial community, the metric course will provide an indepth understanding of the International System of Units (SI) system, conversion practices in design and manufacturing and the significance of international metric engineering standards.

The British Conversion Experience, Conversion in the Engineering Department, and the SI System are several of the topics to be discussed during the four-day program.

Donald E. Wendeln, P.E. Engineering Fellow, Monsanto Research Corporation and Robert L. Wolff, CMfgE, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering Technology, University of Dayton are staffing the program.

The short course sponsored by the School of Engineering in Room 212 of the Kettering Engineering and Research Building on the campus of the University of Dayton. Enrollments should be confirmed one week in advance of the course starting date of June 2.

The American National Metric Council (ANMC) published, in February, a Report to the Nation on the Management of Metric Implementation. The most comprehensive publication on metric status since the Department of Commerce issued its report on US metric study in 1971, the booklet includes reports on a broad spectrum of areas.

The status of metric legislation is one of those areas. In the Metric Reporter, the official publication of ANMC, an editorial entitled "Metric Legislation: Needed or Not?" finds: "Legislation proponents observe that the U.S. is a highly populated complex, and diverse country where thousands of businesses and millions of citizens are still unaware, indifferent, or hostile to metric conversion. This situation, they hold, demands a central authority, i.e., the federal government, to provide impetus and direction to a process which is already underway and which is so all-encompassing."

Those opposed to legislation feel, according to the editorial, "any government involvement in the machinery of the changeover could complicate rather than help matters." Others say: "The United States is moving 'inexorably' toward adoption...and legislation would not make much difference."

The Reporter focuses in on problems and solutions in the conversion process and announces various conferences across the country dealing with the metric conversion. Pointing out some recent developments, the newsletter reports the centimetre has replaced the column inch in London's Evening Standard newspaper and that makers of canadian toiletries are required to begin manufacturing toothpaste, shampoo, deodorants, and other cosmetics in metric volumn sizes by March 1, 1976.